

Senate Bill No. 166

Passed the Senate May 19, 2005

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly July 5, 2005

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2005, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Section 47607 of the Education Code, relating to charter schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 166, Soto. Charter schools: charter renewal.

The existing Charter Schools Act of 1992 permits teachers, parents, pupils, and community members to petition the governing board of a school district to approve a charter school to operate independently from the existing school district structure as a method of accomplishing, among other things, improved pupil learning. Existing law provides procedures that relate to the renewal of a charter and specifies that a renewal shall be for a period of 5 years, inclusive.

This bill would, as an alternative, provide that a charter may be renewed for a period of 2 to 4 years, with certain requirements.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 47607 of the Education Code is amended to read:

47607. (a) (1) A charter may be granted pursuant to Sections 47605, 47605.5, and 47606 for a period not to exceed five years. A charter granted by a school district governing board, a county board of education or the State Board of Education, may be granted one or more subsequent renewals by that entity. Each renewal shall be for a period of five years. A material revision of the provisions of a charter petition may be made only with the approval of the authority that granted the charter. The authority that granted the charter may inspect or observe any part of the charter school at any time.

(2) As an alternative to paragraph (1), a charter may be renewed for a period of between 2 and 4 years. In granting this renewal, a chartering authority shall make findings with regard to inadequacies that justified the renewal of a charter for a period of less than 5 years, and shall provide the charter school with a plan for its improvement. A charter may only be renewed pursuant to this paragraph once in a 5-year period. If a charter is renewed

pursuant to this paragraph, the charter school may appeal that action pursuant to subdivision (j) of Section 47605.

(3) Renewals and material revisions of charters shall be governed by the standards and criteria in Section 47605.

(b) Commencing on January 1, 2005, or after a charter school has been in operation for four years, whichever is later, a charter school shall meet at least one of the following criteria prior to receiving a charter renewal pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a):

(1) Attained its Academic Performance Index (API) growth target in the prior year or in two of the last three years, or in the aggregate for the prior three years.

(2) Ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API in the prior year or in two of the last three years.

(3) Ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API for a demographically comparable school in the prior year or in two of the last three years.

(4) (A) The entity that granted the charter determines that the academic performance of the charter school is at least equal to the academic performance of the public schools that the charter school pupils would otherwise have been required to attend, as well as the academic performance of the schools in the school district in which the charter school is located, taking into account the composition of the pupil population that is served at the charter school.

(B) The determination made pursuant to this paragraph shall be based upon all of the following:

(i) Documented and clear and convincing data.

(ii) Pupil achievement data from assessments, including, but not limited to, the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program established by Article 4 (commencing with Section 60640) for demographically similar pupil populations in the comparison schools.

(iii) Information submitted by the charter school.

(C) A chartering authority shall submit to the Superintendent of Public Instruction copies of supporting documentation and a written summary of the basis for any determination made pursuant to this paragraph. The Superintendent shall review the materials and make recommendations to the chartering authority

based on that review. The review may be the basis for a recommendation made pursuant to Section 47604.5.

(D) A charter renewal may not be granted to a charter school prior to 30 days after that charter school submits materials pursuant to this paragraph.

(5) Has qualified for an alternative accountability system pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 52052.

(c) A charter may be revoked by the authority that granted the charter under this chapter if the authority finds that the charter school did any of the following:

(1) Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter.

(2) Failed to meet or pursue any of the pupil outcomes identified in the charter.

(3) Failed to meet generally accepted accounting principles, or engaged in fiscal mismanagement.

(4) Violated any provision of law.

(d) Prior to revocation, the authority that granted the charter shall notify the charter public school of any violation of this section and give the school a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation, unless the authority determines, in writing, that the violation constitutes a severe and imminent threat to the health or safety of the pupils.

Approved _____, 2005

Governor